

1974: Rubik's cube



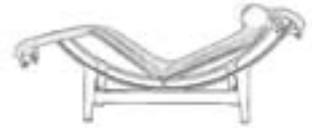
1963: Porsche 911



1996: Swann 36 yacht



1928: LC4 chaise lounge



1908: Toblerone



1945: Vespa scooter



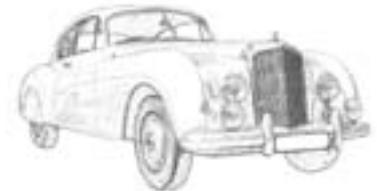
2001: Apple iPod



1955: Vacheron Constantin Extra-Plate (reference 6099)



1963: DB5 Aston Martin



1952: R-Type Bentley Continental

# INNOVATION

WHILE VACHERON CONSTANTIN HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH CLASSICAL WATCHES, ONE MUST NOT FORGET THAT ITS PRODUCT OFFERING INCLUDES INNOVATIVE TIMEPIECES THAT ARE ALSO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TIMES.

BY TIMMY TAN

When does a watchmaking brand like Vacheron Constantin fall under the same category as other international brands like Apple, Toblerone, Vespa, Porsche, Bentley and Aston Martin? When a timepiece of the brand is voted as one of the 999 objects chosen for being among the most innovative, beautiful and influential creations over the last 200 years.

Vacheron Constantin's Patrimony Extra-Plate, created in 1955 and powered by the Calibre 1003 (regarded as the thinnest movement in the world), is among the 999

products featured in the three-volume anthology known as Phaidon Design Classics.

It is within these pages where you will discover Vacheron Constantin's timepiece in the company of Apple's iPod (released in 2001), the Toblerone chocolate bar (1908), Sparkman & Stephen's Swann 36 yacht (1996), Carradino d'Ascanio's Vespa scooter (1945), Le Corbusier's LC4 chaise lounge (1928), Ferdinand Alexander "Butzi" Porsche's Porsche 911 (1963), the R-Type Bentley Continental (1952), the DB5 Aston Martin (1963) and Rubik's cube (1974).

The Patrimony Extra-Plate holds its place among other iconic timepieces of the 20th century such as the Santos (1904) and Tank (1917) watches both of which are from Cartier, and the Rolex Oyster watch (1926). [Note: translated to English, the French word “plate” means “flat” and refers to the Patrimony Ultra-Fine of 1955.]

Published by Phaidon Press, a specialist publisher of books on the visual arts, the 999 chosen objects were the outcome of a selection by a panel of experts who included designers, architects, auctioneers, critics, curators, journalists and academics.

The objects selected by the judging panel must have aesthetic value and a timeless quality. These are definitive models of “lasting influence and enduring significance”, are “innovative”, “characterised by simplicity, balance and purity of form” and are “perfect in their design and have remained unchanged since their creation”.

Even before the 2006 announcement that the Extra-Plate would be included in the Phaidon Design Classics, the Patrimony timepieces which had evolved from the Extra-Plate had been gaining the attention of those in the watchmaking and collecting fraternity. In November 2002 for example, the Patrimony model housing the Calibre 1003 won an award at the Grand Prix d’Horlogerie de Genève in the “Extra-Slim” watch category.

In 2010, to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the ultra-thin Calibre 1003 manual-winding movement found in the Ultra-Plate, Vacheron Constantin unveiled the Historique Ultra-Fine 1955 wristwatch. [Note: The Extra-Plate was introduced in 1955, the same year this brand with an uninterrupted history celebrated the 200th anniversary of its founding. The year 2010 is the year the brand celebrates its 255th year of continued existence.]



When Vacheron Constantin introduced its Extra-Flat in 1955, it was powered by the Calibre 1003 which was then the world’s smallest mechanical manual-winding movement. The diameter of the movement is 9-lignes or 20.8 mm and it is 1.64mm thick

Note: The branding is “Vacheron & Constantin” (Vacheron et Constantin) which is what the brand was known as on its timepieces between 1939 and 1970



Phaidon Design Classics, a three-volume set consisting of 2,880 pages with more than 3,000 images and 500 drawings, features 999 objects of aesthetic value and timeless quality. Vacheron Constantin’s Extra-Plate made in 1955 is considered one of objects offering aesthetic value and timeless quality

### Vacheron Constantin Historique Ultra-Fine 1955 Commemorating the original Extra-Plate’s 55th anniversary (1955 to 2010)

Introduced in 2010

Features:

- Calibre 1003 manual-winding movement
- Movement diameter: 20.8mm, 1.64mm thick
- Movement was rebuilt in 18K for its 55th anniversary in 2010
- Geneva Seal Hallmark
- 18 jewels
- 18,000 vibrations per hour
- More than 30 hours power reserve
- 18K gold, silvered opaline dial with mirror-polished Maltese cross and indexes
- 36mm case in 18K 4N rose gold, 4.1mm thick
- Water-resistant to 3 bar (30m)
- Black hand-stitched, saddle-finished alligator leather with square shape scales
- Polished half Maltese cross buckle in 18K rose gold

In November 2002, Vacheron Constantin’s “Patrimony” secured an award at the Grand Prix d’Horlogerie de Genève in the “Extra-Slim” watch category

Note: To differentiate between the vintage Extra-Plate and the “re-edition” Historique Ultra-Fine 1955, look at the branding. Here it is “Vacheron Constantin” while it is “Vacheron & Constantin” on the original model



This advertisement from 1955 says it all – the Extra Flat was presented the year Vacheron Constantin celebrated the 200th anniversary of its founding

What is noteworthy in the anniversary “1955” piece is not just its classic appeal and the use of the the Calibre 1003. The Calibre 1003 is said to be “redesigned” while still maintaining its slimness and 117-components; what is different is that the movement is actually in gold – that is, its bridges and mainplate are crafted from 18K gold.

While the vintage piece has a closed case back, the Historique Ultra-Fine 1955 has an “exhibition case back” which means one can admire the Geneva Seal Hallmarked movement through the sapphire crystal glass case back. **1**



### Vacheron Constantin Calibre 1003 Rebuilt in 2010 in 18K gold to commemorate the movement’s 55th anniversary

Features:

- Movement diameter: 20.8mm
- Movement thickness: 1.64mm
- Geneva Seal Hallmarked
- Jewels: 18
- Frequency: 18,000 vibrations per hour
- Power reserve: more than 30 hours

As of January 2010, this caibre stakes its claim as the thinnest manual-winding movement with the thickness of 4.10mm